

ROSS PRODUCTS CASA GRANDE, ARIZONA

Ross Products, of Casa Grande, Arizona

is a division of Abbott Laboratories. This facility manufactures nutritional products for infants through adults with special dietary needs and the metal containers for the products. Facility members participate in several community organizations and in 1997 was honored by the Arizona Association of Industries as the Plant of the Year. Recently, a facility manager was one of two worldwide to win the Abbott Laboratories EHS&E Excellence Award. Ross Products is also realizing additional benefits besides the listed commitments. By changing practices that require less water, the facility has been able to reduce its demands on the local aquifer by 12 acre-feet/year. Ross Products is working to have a zero-discharge facility by 2003.

AT A GLANCE

Industry Sector:	SIC 2023 3411 2099
Business:	Manufactures nutritional products and their metal containers
Facility Employees:	100-499
Accomplishments:	Reduced water and hazardous materials use Reduced BOD discharges to water
2003 Commitments:	Reduce packaging materials Reduce BOD and COD discharges Reduce water use Reduce hazardous materials use
Address:	1250 W. Maricopa Highway Casa Grande, Arizona 85222
Web Site:	Http://www.abbott.com

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Past Accomplishments

Ross Products has demonstrated its commitment to environmental performance through reduced water and hazardous materials use as well as reduced BOD discharges to water. Since 1997, the facility has:

- **Reduced water and hazardous materials use** by a 50% reduction in water use and hazardous materials use. By changing chemical use and current production methods, this reduced the amount of water required.
- **Reduced BOD discharges to water** by 58% through recovery of the material that has high nutritional and can be given as livestock feed.

Future Commitments

Ross Products also committed to continued environmental improvement through reducing packaging materials, BOD and COD discharges, water use, and hazardous materials use. By 2003, the company will:

- **Reduce packaging materials** by eliminating 7% of the plastic used, which will ultimately save 340,000 lbs of plastic per year.
- **Reduce BOD and COD discharges** by 68%, through the construction of a power plant next to the facility that reuses facility wastewater as cooling water. Any additional sludge created from the power plant can then be used as highly nutritional livestock feed, or can be applied to the area land.
- **Reduce water use** by 5 million gallons per year. The facility currently discharges ultra-pure water that is in excess of what is included in its products. The facility will re-circulate this water instead of sending it to the sewer.
- **Reduce hazardous materials use** by 100% through the use of ozone instead of chemicals in the cooling system. The facility estimates that this further reduce cooling water use by 40%.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Ross Products facility ensures that senior plant officials participate in several community boards and also encourages plant facility tours. The plant also has a system in place to deal with community concerns and comments in a timely manner. The facility also disseminates information through newspaper articles and public meetings. The Annual Performance Report can be found at the Casa Grande Chamber of Commerce and the Arizona Association of Industries, as well as on the facility web site at <http://www.abbott.com>